

## Internal Letter



Rockwell International

Date · April 10, 1987

No. · DL-GLPIV-5

TO (Name, Organization, Internal Address)

FROM (Name, Organization, Internal Address, Phone)

· Distribution


· G. L. Potter  
· HS&E Ops. Mgmt.  
· Building 123  
· 4098



000024539

SUBJECT · SKAGG'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Attached is a news release from David Skagg's Office explaining the proposed "people's experts" review panel to oversee fluid bed incinerator operations. An Executive Committee is being established consisting of representatives from Skagg's office, CDH, the cities of Arvada, Broomfield, and counties of Adams, Boulder, and Jefferson. The Executive Committee will appoint members to the review panel. The duties of the panel and the selection criteria are described in the attached materials.

  
G. L. Potter  
HS&E Operations Management

Enc. (1)

Distribution

P. G. Aguilar  
G. W. Campbell  
N. M. Daugherty  
A. C. Ficklin  
D. D. Hornbacher  
E. R. Naimon  
W. F. Weston  
C. E. Wickland



ADMIN RECORD

SW-A-003843

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

From the Desk of -

THOMAS P. LOOBY  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Ext. 4510

DATE: 3/30/87

TO: ☒ Dr. Vernon ☒ Ellen Mangione Peter Berbaum  
☐ Lee Thielen ☒ Joan Sowinski  
☐ Kris Paulson ☐ Paul Frohardt  
☐ John Baghott ☐ Joe Palomba  
☒ Brad Beckham ☐ Gary Broetzman  
☒ Paul Ferraro ☐ Lori Eshleman  
☒ Al Hazle ☐ Tom Tayon

TYPE: Draft ☐ Final ☐  
ORIGINAL TO: ☐ COPY: No. ☐ To ☐  
FILE: ☐

<input type="checkbox"/> Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial & Return
<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Confer
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Per Phone Call
<input type="checkbox"/> For My Signature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Your Signature	<input type="checkbox"/> As Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> Comment	<input type="checkbox"/> Circulate

ARRANGE MEETING: ☐

MESSAGE: ☐

OHP (2/18/87)

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

NEWS RELEASE

March 29, 1987

SKAGGS PROPOSES INDEPENDENT PANEL TO REVIEW ROCKY FLATS INCINERATION PLAN

Congressman David Skaggs (D-Colorado) today announced plans for an independent panel to analyze the Rocky Flats Weapons Plant proposal to incinerate mixed hazardous and radioactive wastes.

Under a draft agreement, the panel is to be established by Congressman Skaggs; the cities of Arvada, Broomfield and Westminster; and Adams, Boulder and Jefferson counties. A final agreement to set up the panel will have to receive formal approval by the city councils and county commissioners of the governments involved.

The panel is to consist of experts in the areas of radioactive and hazardous emissions, chemical engineering, process control engineering, public health protection and occupational safety and health.

"They will be the people's experts," Skaggs explained. "They will be able to deal with the scientists from Rockwell International and the Department of Energy on their own terms in evaluating the incineration proposal. They will be chosen for their independence and objectivity to produce an independent, unbiased evaluation of the Rocky Flats plan."

(more)

The Rocky Flats Plant has applied to the Colorado Department of Health for a permit to use an incineration process to reduce the quantity and toxicity of plant wastes. The permit application and evaluation includes a proposed trial incineration of a sample of mixed wastes, which include some radioactive materials.

Since the announcement of the incineration proposal, public concern about the incineration has mushroomed. On March 12, over 400 concerned citizens attended a public briefing organized by Skaggs to discuss the proposal with Rockwell officials and Department of Energy representatives. The idea of an independent panel to produce an unbiased review of the incineration proposal grew out of discussions between Skaggs and local elected officials following that public meeting.

Under the proposed agreement, the panel's work will be financed by the three cities and three counties, which will provide up to \$5,000 each. All meetings of the panel and all documents produced by it will be open to the public.

===

(EDITORS/REPORTERS: For more information on the agreement, contact Nancy Hughes in the Skaggs' Washington office at (202) 225-2161.)

DISPOSAL BY CONGRESSMAN DAVID SKAGGS  
FOR AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL TO EVALUATE  
THE SUGGESTED ROCKY FLATS INCINERATION

March 29, 1987

PURPOSE: To provide independent and unbiased information, analysis, and recommendations to Congressman David Skaggs, the sponsoring cities and counties, the Colorado Department of Health, and the public regarding the proposal to incinerate mixed hazardous and radioactive wastes at Rocky Flats.

### Background and Current Situation

Since 1953, the Rocky Flats plant has handled large quantities of plutonium, uranium, and other radioactive materials, as well as a variety of hazardous chemicals, in the manufacture of nuclear weapon components. In recent months, because of changes in state and federal waste regulations, the plant has accumulated some forty thousand cubic feet of "mixed wastes"--hazardous materials containing small amounts of radioactive materials.

Some public health officials believe transportation of these wastes in such large volume to distant storage sites would create additional health risks. Further, no sites in the United States are now authorized to accept mixed wastes.

An agreement reached in 1986 gave the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) authority to regulate these mixed wastes in Colorado. In response to that new authority, Rocky Flats has applied to CDH for a permit for a comprehensive program for management of both newly generated wastes and those already stored at the plant.

As part of that program, the Department of Energy (DOE), federal manager of the plant, and Rockwell International, contract operator of the plant, propose to use a fluidized bed incinerator at Rocky Flats to reduce the volume and toxicity of some of the mixed wastes. The residue from this process would then be mixed with cement and formed into blocks.

To gather information on the proposed incineration, Rocky Flats plans a trial operation of the incineration equipment to process 3100 pounds of chemical and radioactive wastes, including plutonium. The trial is planned for this spring. CDH would review the results of this incineration trial before deciding whether to issue a permit for the general waste management plan. Public meetings may also be held regarding the trial incineration.

This proposal has elicited a great deal of concern from citizens and local government officials. Many pertinent questions have been raised about the trial incineration and the full-scale implementation of the incineration proposal.

It is critical that these questions be carefully reviewed and answered so public officials and members of the public can have the best possible information for responding to this proposal. It is equally important that all relevant information be made available to the public.

(more)

### Statement of Purpose

Congressman David Skaggs, the Cities of Arvada, Broomfield, and Westminster, and the Counties of Adams, Boulder, and Jefferson agree to establish an independent panel to review the Rocky Flats incineration proposal. The purpose of the review will be to provide information, analysis, and recommendations to assist Congressman Skaggs, the sponsoring governmental bodies, the Colorado Department of Health, and the public in determining what actions are appropriate in this matter.

The panel will be purely advisory, and its existence should not be construed as affecting the authority and responsibility of the Colorado Department of Health in reviewing and acting on the proposed permit.

The members of this panel will be chosen from the scientific and health disciplines necessary for a thorough analysis of the public health and safety implications of the proposal. The panel members also will be chosen for their independence and objectivity.

All meetings of the panel and all documents produced by it will be open to the public.

### Charge to the Panel

The panel will:

- 1) Review the proposal for a trial incineration.
- 2) Advise whether the trial should proceed and, if so, whether all necessary steps have been established to assure public health and safety during the trial, and to ensure the trial will provide the information needed to evaluate the permit application.
- 3) Observe the trial incineration, if it occurs.
- 4) Evaluate the incineration procedures and data from the trial incineration.
- 5) Review the proposal for the full incineration operation.
- 6) Advise whether the full incineration operation should be undertaken and, if so, whether all necessary steps have been established to assure public health and safety during the operation and, if not, what alternative methods should be selected.

- 7) Meet with appropriate officials and scientists from DOE and Rockwell to review the proposals for the test and full incinerations.
- 8) Report its findings and recommendations to Congressman Skaggs, the sponsoring governmental bodies, the Colorado Department of Health, and the public, including a written document and a public presentation to and discussion with the Executive Committee regarding the findings and recommendations.

#### Selection of the Panel

The panel members will be chosen to include expertise in these subjects:

- a) Airborne radioactive and hazardous emissions, with emphasis on their behavior and control.
- b) Chemical engineering, with emphasis on chemical and physical processes in incinerators.
- c) Public health protection and risk assessment, specifically relating to radioactive and hazardous materials.
- d) Sampling analysis techniques including continuous monitoring of radioactive and hazardous emissions.
- e) Process control engineering for evaluating incinerator mechanics.
- f) Occupational safety and health.

Congressman Skaggs will name members of the panel after consultation with the sponsoring governmental bodies and the Colorado Department of Health.

#### Administration and Expenses

Each of the sponsoring governmental bodies--the Arvada, Broomfield, and Westminster City Councils and the Adams County, Boulder County, and Jefferson County Boards of Commissioners--pledges financial support for panel expenses in equal shares of up to \$5,000 each, to be approved through the normal appropriations or disbursement procedures of each body.

**Executive Committee**

An Executive Committee will receive the report(s) of the panel and deal with any administrative matters that may arise in the implementation of this agreement.

The Executive Committee will be comprised of Congressman Skaggs as chairman and one representative each selected from its membership by the Arvada City Council, the Broomfield City Council, the Westminster City Council, the Adams County Board of Commissioners, the Boulder County Board of Commissioners, and the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Health or his designee will participate in all meetings of the Executive Committee to review and provide information regarding the regulatory permitting process.